

Report of the Sixth Annual Session

OF THE

Federation of Organized Trades and Labor
Unions of the United States
and Canada

ALSO THE

Proceedings of the First Annual Convention

OF THE

American Federation
of Labor

Both Conventions Held at
Columbus, Ohio, December 8 to 12
1886

Published by Direction of Both Conventions

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS, A struggle is going on in all the nations of the civilized world, between the oppressors and the oppressed of all countries, a struggle between the capitalist and the laborer, which grows in intensity from year to year, and will work disastrous results to the toiling millions, if they are not combined for mutual protection and benefit.

It therefore behooves the representatives of the Trades and Labor Unions of America, in Convention, assembled, to adopt such measures and disseminate such principles among the mechanics and laborers of our country as will permanently unite them, to secure the recognition of the rights to which they are justly entitled.

We therefore declare ourselves in favor of the formation of a thorough Federation, embracing every Trade and Labor Organization in America.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

Section 1. This association shall be known as "The American Federation of Labor," and shall consist of such Trades and Labor Unions as shall conform to its rules and regulations.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECTS.

Section 1. The objects of this Federation shall be the encouragement and formation of local Trades and Labor Unions, and the closer Federation of such societies through the organization of Central Trades and Labor Unions in every city, and the further combination of such bodies into state, territorial, or provincial organizations, to secure legislation in the interests of the working masses.

Sec. 2. The establishment of National and International Trades Unions, based upon a strict recognition of the autonomy of each trade, and the promotion and advancement of such bodies.

Sec. 3. An American Federation of all National and International Trades Unions, to aid and assist each other; and, furthermore, to secure National Legislation in the interests of the working people, and influence public opinion, by peaceful and legal methods, in favor of Organized Labor.

Sec. 4. To aid and encourage the labor press of America.

ARTICLE III.—CONVENTION.

Section 1. The Convention of the Federation shall be held annually, on the second

Tuesday of December, at such place as the delegates have selected at the preceding Convention.

ARTICLE IV.—REPRESENTATION.

Section 1. The basis of representation in the convention shall be: From National or International Unions, for less than four thousand members, one delegate; four thousand or more, two delegates; eight thousand or more, three delegates; sixteen thousand or more, four delegates; thirty-two thousand or more, five delegates, and so on; and from each Local or District Trades Union, not connected with, or having a National or International head, affiliated with this Federation, one delegate.

Sec. 2. No organization which has seceded from any Local, National or International organization, shall be allowed a representation or recognition in this Federation.

ARTICLE V.—OFFICERS.

Section 1. The Officers of the Federation shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, to be elected by the Convention.

Sec. 2. At the opening of the Convention the President shall take the chair and call the Convention to order, and preside until his successor is elected.

Sec. 3. The following Committees, consisting of three members each, shall be appointed by the President: 1st, Credentials; 2d, Rules and Order of Business; 3d, Resolutions; 4th, Finance; 5th, Report of Executive Council.

Sec. 4. Should a vacancy in any office occur between the annual meetings of the Convention, such vacancies shall be filled by the President of the Federation, by and with consent of the Executive Council. When a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice-Presidents shall succeed in their respective order.

Sec. 5. The President and Secretary shall be members of the succeeding Convention in case they are not delegates, but without vote.

ARTICLE VI.—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Section 1. The Officers shall be an Executive Council with power to watch legislative measures directly affecting the interests of working people, and to initiate, whenever necessary, such legislative action as the Convention may direct.

Sec. 2. The Executive Council shall use every possible means to organize new National or International Trades Unions, and to organize local Trades Unions and connect them with the Federation, until such time as there are a sufficient number to form a National or International Union, when it shall be the duty

of the President of the Federation to see that such organization is formed.

Sec. 3. While we recognize the right of each trade to manage its own affairs, it shall be the duty of the Executive Council to secure the unification of all labor organizations, so far as to assist each other in any justifiable boycott, and with voluntary financial help in the event of a strike or lock-out, when duly approved by the Executive Council.

Sec. 4. When a strike has been approved by the Executive Council, the particulars of the difficulty, even if it be a lock-out, shall be explained in a circular issued by the President of the Federation to the unions affiliated therein. It shall then be the duty of all affiliated societies to urge their Local Unions and members to make liberal financial donations in aid of the working people involved.

ARTICLE VII.—REVENUE.

Section 1. The revenue of the Federation shall be derived from International, National, District and Local organizations, which shall pay into the treasury of the Federation a per capita tax of one-half cent per month for each member in good standing, the same to be payable monthly to the Treasurer of the Federation.

Sec. 2. Delegates shall not be entitled to a seat in this Federation, unless the per capita tax of their organization is paid in full.

Sec. 3. Any organization, affiliated with this Federation, not paying its per capita tax on or before the 15th of each month, shall be notified of the fact by the President of the Federation, and if at the end of three months it is still in arrears, it shall be suspended from membership in the Federation, and can only be reinstated by vote of the Convention.

Sec. 4. Each society affiliated with this Federation, shall make a monthly report of its standing and progress to the President of the Federation.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the President to attend to all correspondence, publish a monthly journal, and travel, with consent of the Executive Council, wherever required in the interest of the Federation. His salary shall be \$1,000 per year, payable monthly, with mileage and expenses.

Sec. 6. Whenever the revenue of the Federation shall warrant such action, the Executive Council shall authorize the sending out of Trades Union speakers, from place to place, in the interests of the Federation.

Sec. 7. The funds of the Federation shall be banked monthly by three Trustees, who shall be selected by the Executive Council. The said Trustees shall be residents of the same

city with the Treasurer. No money shall be paid out only in conformity with the rules laid down by the Executive Council.

Sec. 8. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to attend to such business as may be decided by the Executive Council.

Sec. 9. The accounts of the year shall be closed fourteen days prior to the assembling of the Convention, and a balance sheet, duly certified, shall be presented to the same.

Sec. 10. The remuneration for the loss of time by the executive council shall be at the rate of \$3.00 per diem; traveling and incidental expenses to be also defrayed.

ARTICLE VIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Section 1. In all questions not covered by this Constitution, the Executive Council shall have power to make rules to govern the same, and shall report accordingly to the Federation.

Sec. 2. Charters for the Federation shall be granted by the President of the Federation, by and with the consent of the Executive Council, to all National and International, and Local bodies affiliated with this Federation.

Sec. 3. Any seven wage workers of good character, and favorable to Trades Unions, and not members of any body affiliated with this Federation, who will subscribe to this Constitution, shall have the power to form a local body, to be known as a "Federal Labor Union," and they shall hold regular meetings for the purpose of strengthening and advancing the Trades Union movement, and shall have the power to make their own rules in conformity with this Constitution, and shall be granted a local charter by the President of this Federation, provided the request for a charter be endorsed by the nearest Local or National Trades Union officials connected with this Federation.

Sec. 4. The charter fee for affiliated bodies shall be \$5.00, payable to the Treasurer of the Federation.

Sec. 5. Where there are one or more Local Unions in any city, belonging to a National or International Union, affiliated with this Federation, it shall be their duty to organize a Trades Assembly or Central Labor Union, or join such body, if already in existence.

ARTICLE IX.—AMENDMENTS.

Section 1. This Constitution can be amended or altered only at a regular session of the Convention, and to do so, it shall require a two-thirds vote of the delegates, and must be ratified within six weeks thereafter, by a majority vote of the members of the societies composing this Federation.

Sec. 2. This Constitution shall go into effect March 1st, 1887.

FEDERATION
OF
Organized Trades and Labor Unions
OF THE
UNITED STATES AND CANADA
1886.

Report of Proceedings. First Day—Morning Session.

Druid Hall,
Columbus, O., December 7, 1886.

The sixth annual Congress of the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada, convened at noon on the above date.

Samuel Gompers, of New York City, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, opened the session by introducing Mr. D. P. Boyer, of Columbus, who presented Mr. Crafiton Pierce; Mr. Pierce then delivered an address of welcome in the name of the Columbus Trades' Assembly; Mr. S. Gompers responded in behalf of the Federation.

The chair then announced that the Legislative Committee acting as a Committee on Credentials, were ready to receive the credentials of the delegates to the Federation.

The session then adjourned till 3 P. M.

Afternoon Session.

Promptly at 3 P. M., the Congress was called to order, Mr. S. Gompers presiding. The Chairman of the Legislative Committee as a Committee on Credentials, presented a report showing the following delegates entitled to seats in the Congress:

Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.—J. McHenry Ryland, J. Kane, G. Edmonston, F. J. McGuire.
Journeyman Tailors' National Union.—J. W. Smith.
International Furniture Workers' Union.—H. Emrich.
German-American Typographia.—H. A. Miller.

Cigarmakers' International Union of America.—S. Gompers, Jno. S. Kirchner, J. F. Maloney.

International Typographical Union.—J. L. Wright, J. R. Winders, J. R. Scott.
Granite Cutters' National Union.—J. Duncan.

Baltimore Federation of Labor.—C. P. Oyler, S. B. Hasson.

Philadelphia Central Labor Union.—H. B. Kraft.

Chicago Trades' and Labor Assembly.—E. Mulraney.

Essex County, N. J., Trades' Assembly.—J. C. Craigie.

St. Louis Trades' Assembly.—L. Negelie.

Upon motion, the report was adopted, and the delegates seated.

The Chair announced the next order of business to be the election of officers for this, the sixth, session of the Federation.

Mr. J. W. Smith, of the Journeymen Tailors' National Union, and Mr. J. L. Wright, of the International Typographical Union, were placed in nomination for the office of President, with the following result:

Mr. J. L. Wright received 3.

Mr. J. W. Smith received 9.

Mr. Smith having received a majority of all votes cast, was declared elected.

Mr. Wright was then unanimously elected Vice-President.

Mr. J. S. Kirchner, of the Cigarmakers' International Union, was unanimously elected Secretary, and Mr. H. Emrich, Assistant Secretary.

Mr. C. P. Oyler and H. B. Kraft were elected Auditors; Mr. W. E. Tomson, Doorkeeper, and Mr. E. N. Pflieger, Messenger.

On motion, the Congress resolved to extend the courtesies of the session to the press and members of trade unions.

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Legislative Committee then presented their report, as follows:

The Legislative Committee of the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada, herewith report on the several matters entrusted to them, at the fifth Congress of that body, held in Washington, D. C., December, 1885.

DEATH OF SECRETARY, W. H. FOSTER.

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the death of our late Secretary and brother, W. H. Foster, endeared as he was to us, not only by the ties of friendship, but also by that profound respect which the true man always commands among his fellows.

His devotion to duty, under the trying circumstances of an incurable disease, challenges our admiration for a courage that the shadow of death even could not daunt. Born in England, and educated in that school of Trade Unionism, he naturally, on adopting this country as his permanent home, took an active part in the labor movement, filling the most prominent positions with credit to his craft, and his *Alma Mater*.

The desire to erect a suitable monument to his memory, has been crystallized into the formation of the Foster Memorial Association of Philadelphia; and we would recommend to the friends of labor disposed to contribute to this object to send all donations to E. M. Madden, 607 Walnut street, Philadelphia, Pa.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. J. S. KIRCHNER TO THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY.

In consequence of the vacancy in the office of Secretary, caused by the death of our lamented and efficient Secretary, W. H. Foster, the duty devolved upon the Legislative Committee to fill the same. At the solicitation of several well-known Unionists, and from the fact that the gentleman lived in the same city, and further that that law requires the Secretary to attend this session, and he being a delegate, Mr. John S. Kirchner was appointed.

GROWTH OF TRADES' UNIONS.

It is a source of gratification that we are enabled to report that quite a number National Unions have been organized within the past year, and that others are in the course of formation. That many are not represented here to-day, is only because of the care they exercise and the economy, necessary, making the expenditure at present impractical; it is expressing their sentiments, when we say that they will be with us at our future sessions.

Of the growth of National and International Unions affiliated with the Federation, it need only be said, as will be seen by the per capita paid, that they have increased in membership more than one hundred per cent since 1885.

INCORPORATION OF TRADES' UNIONS.

At the instance of the Legislative Committee, our President, Mr. Compers, in company with Mr. Edmonston, appeared before the House Committee on Labor, and made an argument for the Incorporation of Trades' Unions. The Committee reported the bill favorably, and which subsequently became a law. The law is not what was desired, covering only those

organizations which have, or may remove their headquarters to the District of Columbia, or any of the Territories of the United States; but it recognizes the principle of the lawful character of Trades' Unions, a principle we have been contending for years.

THE EIGHT-HOUR MOVEMENT.

In reviewing the work done in effecting a reduction in the daily working time of the various bodies of organized workers, your committee is most happy to be able to record a large measure of success to the eight-hour movement, inaugurated by the Federation, not alone in the benefit that accrued to the working people from more leisure time in which to improve their condition, but also in the increased stimulus and impetus given thereby to the entire labor movement. Never before, in the history of the country, was there such a general upheaval noticed among the industrial masses as has been witnessed during the past year. The desire for fewer hours led thousands to affiliate with the organizations existing, besides being the means of organizing large numbers that had hitherto been indifferent to the agitation of the labor question. And while we are not able to record the general adoption of eight hours (with the exception of two or three industries and some of the building trades in some localities), we nevertheless claim that the eight-hour agitation was the means of reducing the daily working time of no less than two hundred thousand workers in industries, working ten hours or more per day, to twelve, ten and nine, respectively. The tremendous advantages thus gained are plainly apparent. The Federation, through its Secretary, in February last, issued circulars to the various organizations, calling upon them to take such steps as were practical, and also urged such as were unable to secure the eight-hour day to assist, as far as possible, such as were engaged in the struggle. The Secretary also submitted to the manufacturers printed copies of an agreement to establish the system in their works; in this way the Federation forced the subject before the public, and while the result is very gratifying, it is also painful to acknowledge that more was not accomplished, because of the unreasonable hostility of the employing class against this so very reasonable demand of labor, especially when made without at the same time demanding ten hour's pay for eight hour's work. But this is not the only cause: the divisions in the ranks of labor itself is largely to blame. The Trades Unions, as a rule, responded most zealously to the appeals of this Federation, and had their efforts been met with that co-operation by the Knights of Labor, that their identity of interests so necessarily requires, there would have been no room for reproach, and the loss is therefore chargeable to the expressions of hostility coming from leading members of the Knights of Labor. However, be that as it may, your committee is of the opinion that sufficient has been gained for an incentive to renewed efforts, and respectfully recommend appropriate action by this body in still further reducing the daily working time.

EIGHT-HOUR LAW AND CONTRACT WORK.

The Secretary of the Federation was directed by our last Congress to call the attention of the President of the United States to the continued violation of the eight-hour law. Before

the instructions could be carried out, the President directed the enforcement of the law.

We are in duty bound, however, to state, that while the law is being carried out, yet its obvious intentions are violated by letting out the Government work by contract, and the workmen are thus defrauded of the beneficent intention of the law.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR LAWS

In accordance with the resolution of the last session our late Secretary, William H. Foster, forwarded to a number of Congressmen and Senators copies of the resolutions calling for an International conference of representatives of the civilized nations for general adoption of laws governing female and child labor, factory inspection and the regulation of the hours of labor, as proposed by the Swiss Government; but, up to this moment, we have heard nothing therefrom. The Representative of the Swiss Government at Washington has made inquiries in reference to this subject of the Legislative Committee, but we were unable to give them information. It is our opinion that this subject should receive serious consideration at the hands of our Government.

LABOR DAY.

At the third session of the Federation, a resolution was adopted making the first Monday in September, of each year, Labor's National Holiday, and recommending its observance by wage-workers, generally, throughout the country. This met with a response that exceeded the most sanguine expectations. In our great manufacturing and distributing centres, thousands of workmen marched in procession and participated in the festivities at the picnic grounds, where the most skilled mechanics, and workers in professions, and laborers united in a common celebration, exchanging friendly fraternal greetings while they listened to the champions of labor discussing the economic and political questions of the day. The good effects of this are so well understood that we recommend its more general observance still, until it shall be as uncommon for a man to work on that day as on Independence day.

CHINESE EMIGRATION LAW.

The evasion of the law to restrict the importation of Chinese, proves how worthless are legal enactments when not enforced by men in full sympathy therewith. An appeal to Congress to provide a supplementary act for the stricter enforcement thereof, would receive fair consideration at this time.

STATE LABOR LEGISLATION.

We take pleasure in reporting a general advancement in the interests of wage-workers, by means of labor legislation in the several States.

Laws have been passed establishing Bureaus of Labor Statistics; the inspection and ventilation of mines, factories, and work shops; the prohibition of child labor, and the compulsory education of children under 14 years of age; the prohibition of convict labor contracts, and the establishment of Boards of Arbitration.

We urge workmen to continue in their efforts to gain equal advantages under the law.

PINKERTON POLICE.

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the last Congress, the late Secretary succeeded

in having a bill introduced in Congress, preventing corporations and individuals from employing Pinkerton detectives, vested with the constabulary and police powers, of a State of which they were not residents; the Committee believes in the necessity, and recommends that the Federation use every effort for the passage of the bill, or one of like import that will prevent the transportation from one state to another, of armed mercenaries and free lances in the employ of unprincipled capitalists, to intimidate and coerce workmen asking for their just rights.

PRIZE ESSAY.

Your Committee have not received any essay on the question of "Trades' Unions and Strikes" during the past year, and therefore recommend that the prize offered be withdrawn.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

The last congress submitted to the various bodies represented, the question of adopting certain changes in our constitution, bearing upon the subject of arbitration, support of strikes, etc., which were rejected, not having received the required majority to become a law.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL.

The last Congress instructed your Committee to submit to this Congress, a plan, whereby an official journal could be issued, in order to more effectively bring before the workers, their views on labor matters, and to publish their official business. The necessity of such a journal in the interest of the Trades Union movement cannot be questioned, the matter is of so great importance, that we deem it not advisable to start the enterprise, unless there be sufficient guarantee for its maintenance; such a guarantee can only be found in a firm organization, based on a sound financial system. The eight-hour movement, and the many struggles of labor organizations which followed, as well as the uncertain conditions prevailing, prevented your Committee working out a plan; and we now hope that by the combined efforts of the Trades' Unions, in conference in this city with the Federation, an organization will be effected that will give assurance of success; we therefore suggest that this matter be laid over until after the conference takes place and the result is determined.

STRIKES.

The question of "strikes" is perhaps, in the present movement of "labor" organizations, one that is receiving the largest share of consideration by workmen not wholly, we must confess, guided by that intelligence which we think the subject deserves. We do not as a Federation, or as individuals, wish to be understood to be the advocates of strikes. On the contrary, it is well-known that the best regulated Trade Union has the least strikes; yet, while we deprecate this measure of warfare in the labor movement, we, however, cannot and will not join the general hue and cry of condemnation. Strikes are bad no doubt, but only are they so when they are failures, but not so bad when successful; therefore, to know when to strike, and more especially when not to, are the questions of greatest import; also, when a strike is once entered, how to conduct the same is of great moment: We believe that when a strike is practical, the people most interested should be consulted, and have the

deciding voice. To "order a strike, with non-chalance, of large numbers of men, and "order them back" again to work under more degrading conditions than before they went on strike, with the bombast of a *Don Quixote*, is not, we submit, the best means of improving the condition of labor.

THE FEDERATION AND THE KNIGHTS.

The fifth annual Congress in executive session, considered the relations between the Trades' Unions and the K. of L., and instructed the Secretary to correspond with the officers of the latter body relative thereto. Secretary Foster communicated with Messrs. Powderly and Turner, and elicited replies from both; that of Mr. Powderly deserves special notice, on account of the tone of fairness it contained; but the continued hostility of the K. of L. to Trades' Unions leads us to believe that it was "a promise to the ear broken to the hopes," or that Mr. Powderly's power for good was sadly overestimated by the delegates to the last session of the Federation.

POLITICAL ACTION.

We regard with pleasure the recent political action of the organized workmen of the country, and by which they have demonstrated that they are determined to exhibit their political power. We, in full accord therewith, recommend to organized labor throughout the country that they persist in their recent efforts to the end that labor may achieve its just rights through the exercise of its political powers.

CHANGE OF MEETING.

It is one of the duties of the Legislative Committee to bring other unions into the ranks of the Federation. At last Congress we were instructed to send delegates to conventions of National Unions not yet connected with the Federation, to induce them to join it. In several instances, delegates or letters have been sent to such bodies for that purpose. The best opportunity that ever offered itself to make the Federation a strong and powerful body in the near future, is the conference of the National and International Unions. In order to come to an understanding, with the unions which will be represented in that conference, and in view of the fact that the conference was called on the same day when the Congress of the Federation, in accordance with

the resolution of the last Congress, was to meet in St. Louis, we considered it advisable and in full accordance with the resolutions of the last Congress to change the meeting place from St. Louis, Mo., to Columbus, O., and the time of meeting from December 14 to December 7, so as to give delegates an opportunity to participate in the meetings of both, and to bring about, if possible, an amalgamation of the two bodies.

CONCLUSION.

Hoping that the spirit of fraternity and a closer affiliation of workmen may result from your deliberations, your Committee, in submitting this report to your hands, again urge such action as will increase the effectiveness of organized labor in its battle of emancipation from the opposition of organized and concentrated capital, leading us all up to a higher and nobler realization of civilization and enlightenment.

Yours in the cause,

SAMUEL GOMPERS,

President,

JOHN S. KIRCHNER,

Secretary,

W. E. TOMSON,

Second Vice-President,

H. A. MILLER,

Fourth Vice-President,

HENRY EMRICH,

Sixth Vice-President,

G. EDMONSTON,

Treasurer.

At the conclusion of the reading of the report, the same was, upon motion, referred to the Committee on Report of the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Wright moved that the sessions be held with open doors. Adopted.

Upon motion, all resolutions were referred to the proper committees without debate.

Upon motion, the Legislative Committee were instructed to confer with the conference of National Trades Unions, when in session, with the view of effecting an amalgamation.

Upon motion, the session adjourned until 10 A. M., December 8.

Adjourned.

SECOND DAY.

The Congress convened at 10 A. M., J. W. Smith, presiding; all the delegates being present at roll call.

Minutes of the previous meetings were then read and approved.

Communication from the Cuban Federation of Cigarmakers and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, were read and ordered filed.

The Chairman announced the appointment of the following committees:

Committee on Standing Orders.—S. Gompers, P. J. McGuire, H. Emrich, C. P. Oyler, J. R. Winders.

Committee on Resolutions.—G. Edmonston, H. A. Miller, L. Negelie, S. B. Hasson, J. C. Craigie.

Committee on Legislative Committee's Report.—L. Negelie, J. R. Scott, J. Kane, J. McHenry Ryland.

Committee on Finance.—J. F. Mahoney,

E. Mulraney, J. R. Scott, H. B. Kraft, J. L. Wright.

Mr. Wright was excused from serving on the Committee on Finance.

The Legislative Committee reported concerning their instructions with regard to the Trades' Union Conference, as follows:

That this Federation resolve itself into a

Committee of the Whole, and that it take part in the proceedings of the Conference.

Upon motion, the report was agreed to. The Federation then took a recess until 11:30 A.M. At the expiration of the recess, the Federation again met as a Committee of the Whole, Mr. J. R. Scott, in the chair. On motion of Mr. Gompers, the Committee then proceeded in a body to the Trade Union Conference.

THIRD DAY.

The Congress convened at 9 A. M., Mr. J. W. Smith, presiding.

All the delegates present at roll call. Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. J. R. Scott, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, reported that the Committee had attended the Conference, and that all the delegates of the Federation had been admitted to seats as delegates to the Trade Union Conference; received and order filed.

Committee on Resolutions reported favorably on the following:

By Mr. E. Mulraney:

WHEREAS, The universal adoption of the eight-hour system has long been desired by the industrial classes, who believe that such enforcement would redound to their moral, social, intellectual and financial welfare; and,

WHEREAS, Experience has practically demonstrated, that in order to secure such recognition, there must be "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether" by the representatives of the various labor organizations interested; that where plant or machinery is employed, it is impracticable for one city or state to successfully maintain it, when competing states or cities are working under the ten-hour system; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this body hereby pledges itself, as far as practical, to cooperate and work in harmony with all National or International organizations who desire to accomplish such results.

RESOLVED, That we earnestly request the various National and International Trade and Labor Associations to take definite action on this subject, at their next annual Convention, which shall be binding on every member within their ranks in every city within the United States, or United States and Canada, so that harmonious and joint action shall be secured, and that the local organizations be reminded that the primary object is the recognition of the eight-hour system, and that the question of wages is, for the time being, of secondary importance.

By Mr. J. L. Wright:

WHEREAS, At the annual session of the International Typographical Union, held in

Pittsburg, Pa., June 7-11, 1886, the following was unanimously adopted:

"RESOLVED, That in the event of the Congress of the United States making the Government Printing Office at Washington a bureau, any member of a subordinate union obtaining employment in said office shall be transferred from the active list of his union to a conditional list, to be kept by Columbia Union, No. 101, and be subject to beneficial dues only, so long as he remains in said Government Printing Office." Therefore,

RESOLVED, That the representatives of all the trades in North America in convention assembled, earnestly urge the Congress of the United States to enact such legislation as will secure the end sought after by the printers of our country.

By Mr. J. L. Wright:

WHEREAS, It is every day manifest that master mechanics suffer loss through the desertion of apprentices, and journeymen mechanics are thereby brought into disrepute by association with said fugitive apprentices; and whereas, the journeymen and master mechanics are alike powerless to correct the evil except through an antagonism of interests; and whereas, it is self-evident that partially instructed workmen tend to injure the standing of handicraftmen, and public policy calls for a remedy; therefore, resolved, that the Federation of Labor respectfully petitions the Congress of the United States of America to prescribe compulsory indenture in the District of Columbia with a like one from the Trades reservation that the apprentice may have his domicile with his parents or guardian, and that the authority of his master shall only extend over the hours of employment at the particular trade or handicraft.

RESOLVED, That a committee representing every organization having delegates in this body, be appointed to present this preamble and resolutions to the Committees of Congress on the District of Columbia.

Respectfully, the Committee,
E. EDMUNSTON, Chairman,
HUGO A. MILLER,
LOUIS NEGELE,
JOHN C. CRAIGIE,
SAMUEL B. HASSON.

Upon motion, the report was adopted.

The Legislative Committee presented the following report:

Your Committee, acting as a Conference Committee with a like one from the Trades Unions, beg leave to report that we have met, and agreed upon the following:

FIRST, The Trades Union Conference has formed an organization to be known as the American Federation of Labor, with a constitution better protecting the interests of Trades Unions.

SECOND, We have agreed that all moneys, papers, and effects of the old Federation be turned over to the officers of the new organization, and that all per capita tax due the old Federation be collected by the new Federation.

THIRD, That the new organization agrees to print and publish the proceedings and reports of this Federation in the Official Proceedings.

Your Committee recommend further, that the Federation of Organized Trade and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada, do now merge into the American Federation of Labor, and request all affiliated bodies to do likewise,

Respectfully signed,

S. GOMPERS,
JOHN S. KIRCHNER,
H. EMRICH,
G. EDMONSTON,
H. A. MILLER,

Committee.

Upon motion the report was unanimously adopted, after which the Congress adjourned until Friday.

FOURTH DAY—Morning Session.

The Federation met pursuant to call of Mr. J. W. Smith, the Chairman. Roll call showed all the delegates present. Minutes of previous meeting were then read and approved.

The Committee on Legislative Reports reported as follows:

Columbus, December 10, 1886.

To the Federation, etc.:

Your Committee on the report of the Legislative Committee, recommend the report as offered, be concurred in and printed. Owing to the possibility of the Federation being amalgamated with the Trades' Union Conference, we deem it unnecessary to enlarge on any portion of it.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN R. WINDERS,
LOUIS NEGELIE,
JOHN SCOTT,
JOHN KANE,
SAMUEL B. HASSON.

Upon motion, the report was unanimously adopted.

The Finance Committee presented the following report of receipts and expenses for the session, together with the Financial Statement for the fiscal year, ending December, 1886, and recommended payment of bills due.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RECEIPTS—1886.

Balance on hand.....	\$321 49
Jan. 18. Miscellaneous, Reports, 10.....	1 00
Jan. 19. Dyer, J. B., Reports, 60.....	5 00
Jan. 20. Miscellaneous, Reports, 70.....	75
April 1. G. Edmonston, Reports, 12.....	1 00
April 1. W. W. Wilkinson, Reports, 60.....	5 00
April 1. Miscellaneous, Reports, 2.....	20
April 1. McAuliffe, Reports, 12.....	1 00
April 1. Donker, Reports, 12.....	1 00
April 1. P. J. McGuire, Reports, 100.....	12 25
April 1. Donation from Robinson, Haverhill	10 00

April 10. Spencer, Springfield, Re- ports, 50	\$ 4 20
May 3. Donation from Lace Makers, Brooklyn.....	5 00
May 18. Donation from International Furniture Workers' Union.....	8 44
May 18. 48 Reports for International Furniture Workers' Union.....	4 00
Per Capita Tax of German Typographia	10 00
Per Capita Tax of Philadelphia Central Labor Union	10 00
Per D. M. Pascoe, Reports.....	1 00
Per Capita Tax, Baltimore Federation of Labor	20 00
Per Capita Tax, Journeymen Tailors' National Union	10 00
Per Capita Tax, Chicago Trades As- sembly	10 00
Per Capita Tax, International Furniture Workers' Union	20 00
Per Capita Tax St. Louis Trades' Assembly	10 00
Per Capita Tax, Granite Cutters' Na- tional Union	20 00
Per Capita Tax, Cigarmakers' Interna- tional Union of America.....	179 27
Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.....	125 00
Total	\$795 60

EXPENDITURES—1886.

Jan. 4. Secretary's services to date....	\$30 00
Stationery	1 75
Porterage	90
Postage and registration	2 10
Cyclostyle	12 00
Jan. 13. Edmonston, expressage	1 50
Edmonston, lawyer's fee, preparing bond	1 00
D. J. Gallagher printing 2000 letter pads	9 50
D. J. Gallagher printing 3000 reports.....	157 50
D. J. Gallagher printing 5000 circulars..	15 70
Feb. 8. D. J. Gallagher printing 3000 circulars, appeal	8 00
Feb. 8. D. J. Gallagher printing 1000 amendments.	4 50
Secretary's services	36 00
Extra roller for cyclostyle.....	1 00

Stationery and postage.....	\$17 65
Feb. 11. Stationery, wrappers, and postage	17 08
April. 1. Gompers' expenses to Washington	12 00
April 7. Postage to date.....	62
April 12. Expressage on reports.....	50
April 12. Expressage on reports.....	65
April 12. Portorage on reports	35
May 31. Postage to date	38
Expressage on property.....	2 00
Expressage, postage and money orders..	2 40
Telegrams	1 00
Official services to Secretary Kirchner	18 00
Official services to Secretary Kirchner during convention	13 00
Dec. 6. Stationery for Legislative Committee.....	90
Dec. 8. W. E. Tomson's travelling expenses	50 00
Dec. 8. H. Emrich, loss of time.....	4 50
Dec. 8. G. Edmonston, loss of time....	4 50
Dec. 8. S. Gompers' services and expenses	25 85
Hall rent	13 50
Coal and benches	3 00
E. N. Pflieger, services as messenger...	9 00
To estate of W. H. Foster, late Secretary	32 30
Total expenses ..	\$510 63
Balance in hand of Treasurer.....	284 97
Total ..	\$795 60

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. MAHONEY,
H. B. KRAFFT,
E. MULRANEY,
JOHN SCOTT,
Committee.

Upon motion, the recommendations were adopted and the report referred to the Auditors

in conjunction with the Secretary for certification.

After which, the Congress adjourned.

Afternoon Session.

The Congress convened at noon, Mr. J. W. Smith, presiding, all delegates being present at roll call. The minutes of the previous session were read and approved. The Auditors then reported as follows:

To the Federation of Organized Labor of the United States and Canada:

Your Auditing Committee beg leave to report that they have examined the books of the Secretary and Treasurer, and find them correct.

CHAS. P. OYLER,
H. B. KRAFFT,

Auditors.

Upon motion, the report was adopted. Upon motion, the proceedings and reports of this session are to be printed in pamphlet form, by the officers of the American Federation of Labor, and the officers of the Federation are hereby directed to turn over all the property to the new organization. It was then resolved to request all affiliated unions to connect themselves with the American Federation of Labor, after which the Sixth and last session of the Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada, adjourned, *sine die*.

Attest:

JOHN S. KIRCHNER,
Secretary.

FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

HELD AT

Columbus, Ohio, December 8 to 12, 1886

Report of Proceedings. First Day—Morning Session.

Druid Hall,
Columbus, Ohio, December 8, 1886.

The Convention was called to order at 12 o'clock, M., by P. J. McGuire, Secretary of the Trades' Union Committee. The call for a Convention of Trades' Unions, dated November 10, 1886, was read, and, on motion, the Convention proceeded to form a temporary organization.

John McBride, of the National Federation of Coal Miners and Mine Laborers, was nominated as Temporary Chairman, P. J. McGuire was also nominated, but declined. Mr. John McBride was then unanimously elected Temporary Chairman. Mr. Samuel Gompers conducted Mr. McBride to the chair.

Nominations for Temporary Secretary being in order, P. J. McGuire was chosen by acclamation. Moved, that a committee of five on Credentials be appointed. Amended that the committee be elected. Amendment lost. The original motion was then adopted.

Committee on Credentials.—A. Strasser, John Scott, G. Edmonston, Hugo Miller, and James McDermott.

Adjourned to meet: 2 o'clock, P. M.

Afternoon Session.

The Convention re-assembled at 2 o'clock P. M. John McBride in the chair.

The Committee on Credentials reported as follows:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

Columbus, December 8, 1886.

To the Convention of National and International Trades Unions:

Your Committee on Credentials, have examined the credentials presented to them, and

find them to be correct, and the following delegates entitled to represent the organizations named.

Iron Molders' National Union—P. F. Fitzpatrick, L. McHugh, *W. H. Kelly.

Typographical International Union—J. R. Winders, J. L. Wright, John Scott, D. P. Boyer.

Bricklayers' Union No. 1, Cincinnati, O.—J. McDermott.

German-American Typographia—Hugo Miller. Granite Cutters' National Union—James Duncan.

United Order of Carpenters of New York City—James Casserly.

New York Stereotypers' National Union—*J. J. Black.

New England Lasters' National Union.—*Edward L. Daly, W. H. Marden.

Furniture Workers' National Union — H. Emrich.

National Federation of Miners and Mine Laborers—Hon. D. McLaughlin, Hon. J. McBride, G. Harris, E. Lewis, Chris Evans.

New York Mutual Benevolent and Protective Society of Operative Painters—J. F. Hanlon.

Journemen Tailors' National Union.—James W. Smith.

Waiters' Union No. 1, New York—Julius Wiener.

Journemen Bakers' National Union—George G. Block.

Journemen Barbers' Protective Union of N. Y.—Edward Finkelstone.

International Boatmen's Union No. 1, of New York—J. J. Molloy.

United German Trades' Unions of New York—Bernhard Davis.

Metal Workers' National Union—George W. Appel.

Your Committee further report that the following delegates have been duly accredited to represent their organization in the "Federation of Trades," and recommend that they also be seated in this Conference as delegates:

Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of

America—John Kane, P. J. McGuire, J. McH. Ryland, G. Edmonston.

Cigarmakers' International Union—Samuel Gompers, John S. Kirchner, J. F. Mahoney, *A. Strasser.

Baltimore Federation of Labor—S. B. Hasson, C. P. Oyler.

Central Labor Union, Philadelphia—H. B. Krafft.

Chicago Trades' Assembly—E. Mulraney.

Essex County (N. J.) Trades' Assembly—J. C. Cragie.

St. Louis Trades' Assembly—Louis Negelie.

Making a total of twenty-five organizations, represented by forty-two delegates, with a membership of 316,469 members in good standing.

G. EDMONSTON, Secretary,
JAMES McDERMOTT,
JOHN SCOTT,
A. STRASSER, Chairman.

The report of the Committee was unanimously accepted as read. Moved, that, inasmuch as the Cigarmakers' International Union is entitled to one more delegate, that the name of A. Strasser, President of the Cigarmakers' International Union, be added to the roll of delegates. Carried unanimously. Moved, a committee of five, on Rules and Order of Business be appointed. Carried. Committee as appointed—J. W. Smith, L. Negelie, John Kane, Christopher Evans, and John S. Kirchner. Moved that a committee of three, on Permanent Organization, be appointed. Carried. Committee on Organization—A. Strasser, George Appel, and P. F. Fitzpatrick. Credentials of A. G. Denny, of Local Assembly 300, Knights of Labor (Window Glass Workers), presented and referred to Committee on Credentials. Moved, that a committee of five, on Resolutions, be appointed. Carried. Committee on Resolutions—J. Casserly, George Harris, Edward Finkelstone, J. F. Mahoney, and John Kane. The Committee on Permanent Organization reported as follows:

Columbus, December 8, 1886.

To the Convention:

The Committee on Permanent Organization beg leave to report as follows: Chairman, John McBride; Vice-Chairman, J. W. Smith; Secretaries, P. J. McGuire, John S. Kirchner; Doorkeeper, W. E. Tomson; Messenger, E.-N. Pfieger.

A. STRASSER, Chairman.
P. FITZPATRICK,
GEORGE W. APPEL.

Report adopted. Moved, that a committee of five, on Constitution, be selected. Amended, that the committee be increased to seven in number. The amendment was put to vote, and carried. The Committee on Constitution—S. Gompers, P. J. McGuire, Edward Mulraney, H. Emrich, P. F. Fitzpatrick, Daniel Mc-

Laughlin, J. R. Winders. Mr. Gompers resigned from the Committee on Rules, not being able to attend to the duties of that Committee. The resignation of Mr. Gompers was thereupon accepted, and Mr. L. Negelie was thereupon substituted on the Committee on Rules.

Moved, that the reporters of the press not delegates to this Convention, be excluded from the sessions, and official reports be furnished twice a day to the reporters, by the Secretary. After a prolonged discussion, the motion to exclude the press, was adopted by a vote of 18 to 10. Moved, that any person not a reporter, who is a member of any trade or labor union, shall be entitled to admission as a visitor. Carried unanimously. The reporters then retired.

A telegram from J. A. Steiger, Philadelphia, Pa., was received and filed.

Communications of sympathy were then read from Wm. Weihe, Pittsburg, Pa.; The Trades' Council, of New Haven, Conn.; Wm. J. Smith, President American Flint Glass Workers; J. P. Donnelly, President Journeymen Plumbers' National Union; Thomas O'Dea, Secretary of the Bricklayers and Masons' International Union; The Shoe Salesmen's Union of New York; Tailors' Progressive National Union; Federation of Cuban Cigarmakers' of New York City, and Hugh McGregor, of New York; also a telegram from J. P. McDonnell, Paterson, N. J. Circulars in relation to the W. H. Foster Memorial Association were then presented and distributed among the delegates. Committee on Resolutions then retired to attend to their committee work.

RESOLVED, That the Convention do now enter into an informal discussion for one hour and a half, on the necessity of a Federation, and in the suggestion of a plan of organization. By request the Standing Committee on Trades' Unions stated their views on the question of Federation. Messrs. McGuire, Evans, Fitzpatrick and Strasser, spoke for the Committee. Mr. George Block took the floor and favored more radical action on the part of Trades' Unions than had heretofore been the rule.

Credentials were then presented as follows: J. J. Black, New York Stereotypers' Association, and Edward L. Daly, W. H. Marden, New England Lasters' Protective Union. Committee on Credentials reported favorably on the credentials. Motion was made, that the three newly arrived delegates be admitted to seat and vote. Objections were raised by the

*Added later in the session.

delegates of the International Typographical Union, to the admission of the delegates from the Stereotypers, on the ground that said society should be connected with the International Typographical Union. Motion amended, that the two delegates from the Lasters' Protective Union be admitted. The amendment prevailed. Motion made, to admit the delegate of the Stereotypers. After an explanation from

Mr. J. J. Black, the objections of the International Typographical Union were withdrawn, and the delegate of the Stereotypers was then admitted by almost a unanimous vote. Mr. J. Wright, of the International Typographical Union, voting in the negative. Committee on Resolutions announced itself ready to report. On motion, the Convention then adjourned until 9 A. M., December 9, 1886.

SECOND DAY—Morning Session.

The second day's session of the Trades' Union Convention opened in Druid Hall, December 9, at 9 A. M., John McBride in the chair.

Mr. J. W. Smith, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, then presented the following report:

Columbus, December 8, 1886.

To the Officers and Delegates of the Convention:

Your Committee on Rules hereby present the following rules for the government of the session:

1. The time of the meetings of the Congress shall be as follows: On the first day, to assemble at noon; on all other days at 9 A. M. Adjourn at 12; reassemble at 2, and adjourn at 6 P. M., and at the appointed time the chairman shall call the Congress to order.

2. During the hours of meeting, no delegate will be allowed to leave the room, unless on special business.

3. Every delegate, when he rises to speak, shall respectfully address the chair. While speaking, he shall confine himself to the question.

4. Should two or more rise to speak at the same time, the chair shall decide who is entitled to the floor.

5. No delegate shall interrupt another in his remarks unless to call him to order for words spoken, or for the purpose of explanation.

6. If a delegate, while speaking, be called to order, he shall, at the request of the chair, take his seat until the question of order is determined, when, if permitted, he may proceed again.

7. A delegate shall not speak more than once on the same subject or question until all who wish to speak shall have had an opportunity to do so; nor more than twice without permission from the house; nor any longer than 5 minutes at one time, without permission.

8. A question shall not be subject to debate until it has been seconded and stated from the chair, and it shall be reduced to writing at the request of any member.

9. When a question is before the house, no motion shall be in order, except to adjourn, for the previous question, to postpone indefinitely, to postpone for a certain time, to divide, to commit, or to amend, which motions

shall severally have precedence in the order herein arranged.

10. A motion to lay on the table shall be put without debate.

11. A motion for a reconsideration shall not be received, unless made in the same session by a delegate who voted in the majority.

12. Any delegate who shall misbehave himself in the meeting, or disturb the harmony or order thereof, either by abusive, disorderly, or profane language, or shall refuse obedience to the presiding officer, shall be admonished of his offense from the chair, and if he offend again, he shall be excluded from the room for the session, and afterward dealt with as the Congress may determine.

13. Any delegate who may not be present when the last name on the roll has been called, shall be marked as absent by the Secretary.

14. All questions not herein provided for shall be decided according to Cushing's Manual.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Roll call of officers and delegates.
2. Reading minutes of previous session.
3. Report of Committee on Credentials.
4. Report of officers.
5. Reports of regular committees.
6. Reports of special committees.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business
9. Good of the Federation.

Respectfully, the Committee,
 JAS. W. SMITH, Chairman.
 JOHN S. KIRCHNER,
 CHRIS. EVANS,
 LOUIS NEGELE,
 JAS. McDERMOTT,
 JOHN KANE.

The report was adopted as read:

The Committee on Credentials reported favorably on the credentials of W. H. Kelly, delegate of the Iron Molders' Union of North America.

The report was adopted, and Mr. Kelly was admitted as a delegate.

The Committee on Credentials reported unfavorably on the credentials of Mr. A. G. Denny, of the Window Glass Workers, on the ground that said organization is affiliated with the Knights of Labor, and is not a Trade Un-

ion within the meaning of the call for the Convention. The report was adopted unanimously.

The Committee on Resolutions then presented the following report:

WHEREAS, There are many questions affecting the interests of the working classes, which cannot be dealt with in special and separate Trade and Labor Unions, and as that end can be best attained by a Federation of all Trade and Labor Unions, through which all branches of labor may prove allies to any particular one that may be oppressed, and all may form one brotherhood for the defense and protection of the laboring masses; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, 1. That we, the delegates of the various Trades and Labor Unions here represented, do hereby form a Federation of all Trade and Labor Unions of America, to ensure the attainment of the objects for which this Convention was called; be it further

RESOLVED, 2. That a committee of five be appointed for that purpose, to confer with

a committee from the Congress of the Federation of Trades.

On motion it was decided that said report be received and acted on *seriatim*. The report was then received and read *seriatim*.

Resolution No. 1 was referred to Committee on Constitution.

Resolution No. 2 was adopted.

A motion was then made to appoint a Conference Committee to meet with like committee from the Federation of Trades. Carried.

Messrs. Block, Emrich, Krafft, Kirchner and Negele, then introduced various resolutions, which were referred under the rules, to the Committee on Resolutions.

Motion was made to adjourn until 2 P. M. Carried. Whereupon the Convention then adjourned.

SECOND DAY—Afternoon Session.

Promptly at 2 P. M. the Convention reassembled, Mr. John McBride in the chair.

The Chairman then announced the Committee on Conference with the Legislative Committee of the Federation of Trade. The Committee consisted of Messrs. Strasser, Block, McHugh, McLaughlin and Hanlon.

Minutes of the previous day were read, and with a slight correction as to Mr. J. L. Wright's protest against the stereotypers, were then unanimously adopted.

A telegram of sympathy was read from J. W. Braidwood, Vineland, N. J. Received and ordered filed.

Mr. Geo. Block moved that the roll of delegates be called, and each delegate be permitted to state the condition of the organization he

represents, and its relations towards the Knights of Labor. Carried unanimously.

Reports were made in behalf of their respective unions by Messrs. Fitzpatrick, Boyer, McDermott, Miller, Duncan, Casserly, McGuire, Emrich, Evans, Hanlon, Smith, Wiener, Block, Finkelstone, Molloy, Davis, Appel and Strasser. (For reports see pages 17 and 18.)

On motion, the Secretary was instructed to send a telegram of greeting to the workmen's meeting tonight in Cooper Institute, New York, in aid of the workingmen's paper, the *New York Daily Leader*.

On motion, an invitation from Henry Dorn, State Factory Inspector, to visit the State Institutions, was accepted. The Convention then adjourned until 9 A. M., December 10, 1886.

THIRD DAY—Morning Session.

The third day's session was opened December 10, at 9 A. M., Mr. J. McBride presiding. Minutes of previous day read and approved. The messenger was ordered to procure a hall for a night session.

Communications from Trades Union men in Syracuse, Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, and Paterson, were read and ordered filed.

Letters from the delegates of the Journeymen Barbers and the Waiters, each requesting

the aid of all Trades Unions to help them in their efforts to form a National Trade Union, were received and referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

The Standing Trades Union Committee, appointed at the Trades Union Conference in Philadelphia, made a full and extended report through its Secretary, P. J. McGuire, as to its efforts in endeavoring to effect an agreement with the Knights of Labor. It related its va-

rious visits, first to the General Assembly of the K. of L., at Cleveland, O., May 25, 1886, and secondly, to the K. of L. Executive Board, at the Bingham House, Philadelphia, September 28, 1886—just prior to the Richmond Convention. At the Cleveland meeting, a treaty was presented and finally rejected by the K. of L. At the Philadelphia meeting definite promises were made, but nothing definite was done by the Richmond General Assembly. The treaty presented at Cleveland is as follows:

FULL TEXT OF THE TREATY.

1. That in any branch of labor having a national or international organization, the Knights of Labor shall not initiate any person or form any assembly of persons following said organized craft or calling without the consent of the nearest national or international union affected.

2. That no person shall be admitted to the Knights of Labor who works for less than the regular scale of wages fixed by the union of his craft, and none shall be admitted to membership in the Knights of Labor who have ever been convicted of scabbing, ratting, embezzlement, or any other offense against the union of his trade or calling, until exonerated by the same.

3. That the charter of any Knights of Labor Assembly of any trade having a national or international union, shall be revoked, and the

members of the same be requested to join a mixed assembly, or form a local union, under the jurisdiction of their respective national or international trades union.

4. That any organizer of the Knights of Labor who endeavors to induce trades unions to disband, or tampers with their growth or privileges, shall have his commission forthwith revoked.

5. That whenever a strike or lockout of any trades union is in progress, no assembly or district assembly of the Knights of Labor shall interfere until settled to the satisfaction of the trades union affected.

6. That the Knights of Labor shall not establish or issue any trade mark or label in competition with any trade mark or label now issued, or that may hereafter be issued by any national or international trades union.

The report of the Committee was adopted unanimously, and the Committee was continued. The Trades Union Committee was instructed to meet a committee of five, then present in Columbus, from the Knights of Labor, and to insist upon a settlement upon the basis of the above treaty. Mr. Edward L. Daley, of the Shoe Lasters' Union, was appointed to fill the vacancy of Mr. William Weihe, on the Committee.

Adjourned to meet at 2 P. M.

THIRD DAY—Afternoon Session.

At 2 P. M. Chairman McBride called the Convention to order. The Committee on Resolutions reported favorably the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, It has pleased the Supreme Ruler of the universe to remove from our midst, since the last Convention of the Federation of Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada, William H. Foster, our late Secretary, and

WHEREAS, There has been formed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, an association known as the Foster Memorial Association, having for its object the erection of a monument to the memory of Mr. Foster, and

WHEREAS, This Convention deems this movement worthy of all the support at the hands of organized labor. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the delegates to this Convention be requested to report this movement to their respective organizations, with the recommendation of this Convention, that they render this worthy movement such financial assistance as they may feel themselves able to give.

Adopted.

POLITICAL ACTION.

WHEREAS, This subject is one which has, in the past, been a prolific source of dissension and trouble in the ranks of the workingmen; but, happily, the revolution recently witnessed in the election contest in several states, notably,

the remarkable and extraordinary demonstration made by the workmen of New York, Milwaukee, Chicago, and other places, shows us the time has now arrived when the working people should decide upon the necessity of united action, as citizens at the ballot box.

WHEREAS, The necessity of this is apparent from the subjection of the police power to the interest of corporate capital, in enforcing upon their employes conditions repulsive to free labor and liberty and if the nefarious work of the Pinkerton Detective Agency is to be stopped the workers must secure a greater share of political power; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Convention urge a most generous support to the independent political movement of the workmen.

Adopted.

RESOLVED, That this Convention earnestly request the Congress of the United States to pass a bill prohibiting United States soldiers from competing with citizens of any trade or calling, under any condition whatever.

Adopted.

Mr. Gompers made a personal explanation in reference to attacks made upon him by the Ex-Board of the K. of L. in a pamphlet recently issued, entitled Cigarmakers, vs. the K. of L.

Adjourned to meet at 7 P. M.

THIRD DAY—Evening Session.

Convention called to order at 8 P. M.; John McBride in the chair.

Resolved to sit in continuous session until all business is disposed of.

Committee on Resolutions reported favorably on resolution to aid the Journeymen Barbers and Waiters in effecting a more thorough organization. Report adopted. The Committee also reported favorably on resolution recommending a hearty support of the labor press, and of the label of the United Hatters. Report adopted.

Communication from the Hatters National Union received and filed.

The Committee on Constitution presented its report, and various sections were adopted as read, and some as amended. After spending several hours on the Constitution, further consideration was then postponed until the next morning.

On motion, it was resolved we proceed to the selection of a place for the next meeting of the "American Federation of Labor." The following cities were proposed with the following results:

	1st Ballot.	2d Ballot.	3d Ballot.	4th Ballot.
Baltimore	12	17	18	23
Philadelphia	3	—	—	—
Boston	6	6	2	—
Columbus	2	—	1	—
Cincinnati	6	8	13	12
St. Louis	3	4	2	2
Total	32	35	36	37

Baltimore, Md., having received a majority of all votes cast, was thereupon declared the place for holding the Second Annual Convention of the "American Federation of Labor," on December 13, 1887.

The following resolution was then adopted, upon a favorable report from the Committee on Resolutions:

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

WHEREAS, The law restricting Chinese Immigration has been evaded, violated, and made to an extent inoperative by the action and decisions of the United States Courts of the Pacific Coast, who have been admitting all Chinese who have seen fit to invoke their aid, and have thus nullified the efforts of the Collector and Surveyor of the Port of San Francisco, who have honestly and conscientiously endeavored to enforce the laws against the further introduction of a class of immigrants who have no sympathy with our government, civilization, or social customs; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor is in full accord with the workmen of the Pacific Coast in the fierce struggle for existence to which they are subjected by reason of competition with Chinese, who have spread over that section, and are a standing menace to the prosperity and happiness of the workmen of the country, and the peace of the nation, and we demand the rigid enforcement of the laws now on the statute books to prohibit Chinese immigration, and the passage of such further laws by Congress as may be necessary to effectually prevent the use of the courts, as a back door to admit such immigrants.

Convention then adjourned until 8 A. M., December 11.

FOURTH DAY—Morning Session.

Convention assembled at 8 A. M., Mr. John McBride as Chairman. Minutes of previous day read and approved.

Committee on Constitution proceeded with its report, and the report, after some amendment, was adopted. The Constitution, as printed on Page 3 of these proceedings, was then unanimously adopted as a whole. On motion it was decided that the Constitution go into effect on March 1, 1887, after the same has been duly ratified by a general vote of the

organizations represented in this Convention.

The Committee to wait upon the Knights of Labor Committee reported as follows:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE WITH THE COMMITTEE OF THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

Columbus, O., December 11, 1886.

To the Delegates of the Trades Union Convention:

Your Committee on Conference with the Knights of Labor beg leave to report that we met that Committee at the United States Ho-

tel, Columbus, Ohio, on December 10, 1886, at 1:30 P. M. Our Chairman, Mr. P. F. Fitzpatrick, presented the credentials and instructions of our Committee to the Committee of the Knights of Labor. A series of questions was then presented by Mr. Fitzpatrick on behalf of our Committee. Mr. John Howes, Chairman of the Knights of Labor Committee, acted as spokesman for them, and Mr. Fitzpatrick as spokesman for us.

We now beg leave to report our questions and the answers of the K. of L. Committee. Mr. Fitzpatrick inquired:

What have you done in Cleveland with the treaty presented by the Trades Unions?

Mr. Howes—It was presented to the General Assembly, referred to a committee, and reported on unfavorably; it was then defeated. A substitute was proposed, discussed, and rejected by the General Assembly, and finally a Committee of Conference, to act with the Trades Union Committee and consider past grievances, was ordered appointed. The Committee did not meet; nothing was done, and no report was made at Richmond. I do not remember whether our present Committee was revived at Richmond or not. The Committee of which I am now chairman has been recently specially appointed to meet your Committee here.

Mr. Fitzpatrick—We desire to again present that treaty, offered at Cleveland, and renew it for consideration by your Committee.

Mr. Howes—We have no power to take that treaty into consideration. The General Assembly, at Cleveland, has passed upon it, and we cannot act upon business disposed of by them.

Mr. Fitzpatrick—If you will not consider our treaty, are you ready to consider the substitute offered by some of your delegates in the Cleveland General Assembly?

Mr. Howes—We cannot do so. That substitute was defeated in the Cleveland General Assembly, and that disposes of the substitute.

Mr. Fitzpatrick—What powers have your Committee, or what instructions, in regard to Trades Union matters?

Mr. Howes—We have no instructions, nor are we clothed with full power in dealing with this matter.

Mr. Fitzpatrick—Are you now willing to enter into some arrangements for the future?

Mr. Howes—Our Committee has no proposition to make, but will consider any proposition coming from your Committee. We have no grievances against the Trades Union. It is our desire to report to the Executive Board of the Knights of Labor, inasmuch as we consider our Committee as auxiliary to them.

Mr. Fitzpatrick—Our Committee have been instructed to present the treaty offered at Cleveland as the best basis of settlement.

Mr. Howes—We cannot consider that treaty. It has been rejected by our General Assembly.

Mr. Fitzpatrick—If we enter into negotiations, will your Committee have power to make recommendations to the Executive Board of your Order?

Mr. Howes—Our General Executive Board is the only body that can make recommendations. For it is the General Assembly, when that body is not in session.

Mr. Denny (member of the K. of L. committee)—Mr. Powderly is anxious, I assure you, for a settlement, and so is the order at large, but we have no definite instructions.

Mr. Fitzpatrick—We wish to state that we have an abundance of testimony to show many

grievances of where suspended and expelled members of Trades Unions, "rats and scabs," embezzlers of union funds, and unfair men generally, have been admitted to membership in the K. of L. We did not know that your Committee was coming here, or we would bring some thirty pounds of documents to prove our case. Fortunately, we have a few with us, and if you desire to consider them, we will present them.

Mr. Howes—We will grant that your statement be true. If such be the case, will it be sufficient if this committee will assure you that they will use their utmost influence to prevent such trouble for the future, and recommend the executive Board the adoption of such measures as to prevent their recurrence?

Mr. Fitzpatrick—Are you willing to do so?

Mr. Howes—We cannot guarantee anything definite. My opinion is, that in our organization we should be the judges as to who shall constitute our membership.

Considerable discussion then ensued as to what constituted a "scab" in labor matters. Mr. Denny admitted that any man who takes an obligation to live up to certain rules in any trade organization, and then violates them, is certainly a "scab."

Mr. Howes—We cannot always regulate such matters, and there is likely to be conflict while there is a double jurisdiction of the Knights of Labor and Trades Union in any occupation.

Mr. Denny said the only remedy is in consolidation with the Knights of Labor.

Your Committee reported many instances of infringement upon Trades Unions by incompetent or over-zealous organizers in the Knights of Labor. Whereupon Mr. Howes remarked that it was very difficult to get at these organizers, but it might be remedied through general instructions from the headquarters of the K. of L.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked him if he would promise to recommend that such steps be taken. Mr. Howes said that he was instructed to promise anything, and could not make any guarantee. After much desultory discussion, your Committee concluded that no settlement could be arrived at unless the K. of L. Committee were clothed with power to settle, and give us proper guarantees for the future. The conference terminated without any result, and your Committee recommend that the Executive Council of the newly organized Federation shall issue an address to the public upon the subject, and that the same be done at an early date. We might have terminated the conference the first half hour of the meeting, for it was evident the K. of L. Committee had no power to act. In the interest of harmony, we deemed it wiser to spend the three hours we did in a friendly discussion, with the hope of coming to an understanding. We rest the matter entirely in your hands.

Yours fraternally,
P. F. FITZPATRICK,
A. STRASSER,
CHRIS. EVANS,
EDWARD L. DALEY,
P. J. MCGUIRE,

Committee.

The report of the Committee was accepted and the Committee discharged.

Resolutions in favor of boycotting the New York Tribune, the Cleveland Daily Leader and Evening News were adopted; also to support the Journeymen Bakers' National Union in

their work of organization and to buy none but union-made bread with the union label. The blue label of the Cigar Makers' International Union was unanimously endorsed as the only union label in that trade. The indiscriminate and frivolous use of the boycott as a remedy on every trifling occasion was strongly condemned and its careful and energetic use as a last resort, when properly undertaken, was most favorably endorsed, also the formation of State Trades' Assemblies was recommended. The following resolutions, as reported from the Committee, were unanimously adopted:

SHORTER HOURS OF LABOR.

RESOLVED, That while we favor the adoption of the eight-hour system, and shall do all in our power to have it ultimately adopted, yet we deem it advisable for the present to establish the system of nine hours as a day's work in all branches of labor now working ten hours a day, and where men are now working more than ten hours a day, we shall use every effort to aid and encourage them to still further reduce the hours of labor.

THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

WHEREAS, The K. of L. have persistently attempted to undermine and disrupt the well-established Trades' Unions, organized and encouraged men who have proven themselves untrue to their trade, false to the obligations of their union, embezzlers of moneys, and expelled by many of the unions, and conspiring to pull down the Trades' Unions, which it has cost years of work and sacrifice to build; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we condemn the acts above recited, and call upon all workmen to join the unions of their respective trades, and urge the formation of National and International Unions and the centralization of all under one head, The American Federation of Labor.

BLACKLISTING.

WHEREAS, At the annual session of the Boss Brewers' Association, held at Niagara Falls, a resolution was passed instructing the

Secretary to obtain the names of all workmen who are members of any union, for the purpose of blacklisting all who will not become the servile slaves of the employers. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor emphatically condemns all efforts on the part of employers to break up Trades Unions, and reduce the workers to a state of abject slavery.

APPRENTICE LAWS.

RESOLVED, That we demand that the Congress of the United States of America pass a compulsory indenture law, applicable to the mechanic act, and operative in the District of Columbia and Territories, said law reserving to the apprentice his domicile with his parent or guardian, and limiting the authority of the master over the apprentice to the hours of employment in the particular trade or handicraft.

PINKERTON DETECTIVES.

RESOLVED, That we condemn the armed organization known as Pinkerton's Preventive Patrol and the Coal and Iron Police, or any armed body of men formed to act as spies and thugs for corporate monopolies, with the extraordinary privilege of moving about from one state to another, plying their nefarious trade of overawing peaceful laborers into submission to the degrading conditions of servitude.

INDISCRIMINATE APPROPRIATIONS IN STRIKES.

RESOLVED, That this Federation discountenance the practice of local bodies indiscriminately appropriating moneys to every appeal in strikes, and that they reserve all their resources to contribute more liberally to official appeals made by this Federation, in behalf of bodies connected therewith, and who are also the only ones entitled to their support.

TRADE UNION LABELS.

RESOLVED, That we pledge ourselves, and request our respective organizations to recognize and patronize the union labels and trade marks of all bona fide Trades Unions, and no other.

All adopted. The Convention on motion then adjourned until 2 P. M.

FOURTH DAY—Afternoon Session.

Convention met at 2 P. M., J. McBride presiding. The Committee on Conference with the Federation of Trades reported as follows:

The Committee on Conference with the Federation of Trades begs leave to report:

Mr. Gompers, from the Federation of Trades and Labor Unions, appeared before your Committee, and stated that at a meeting held by the Federation of Trades and Labor Unions, a resolution was passed to the following effect, viz.:

The Legislative Committee, per instructions of Federation, announce that our body has resolved to turn over all moneys, papers and effects to the "American Federation of Labor,"

with the request for the publication of their Legislative Committees' Report, and other proceedings of that body, in the Proceedings of the American Federation of Labor when published. The committee further requests the collection of the per capita due the Federation by the International Typographical Union.

We, your Committee, respectfully recommend the acceptance of the above generous offer.

Respectfully submitted,

A. STRASSER, Chairman.

L. MCHUGH,

D. McLAUGHLIN,

JAS. McDERMOTT, Sec.

Adopted. On motion the various committees were discharged.

Ordered that the Secretary and Treasurer be empowered to pay all bills due on account of this session, also that a stenographer be employed.

On motion the Convention proceeded to nomination and election of officers.

For President: John McBride, Samuel Gompers, Geo. Block and Larkin McHugh were nominated. Messrs. McBride, Block and McHugh declined, whereupon Mr. Samuel Gompers was declared elected President by a unanimous vote.

For First Vice-President: P. F. Fitzpatrick, George Harris, John McBride and H. Emrich were nominated. Messrs. Fitzpatrick, McBride and Emrich declined in favor of Mr. Harris and Mr. Geo. Harris was thereupon elected First Vice-President by acclamation. On motion Mr. J. W. Smith was elected Second Vice-President unanimously.

For Secretary: P. J. McGuire, D. P. Boyer and J. S. Kirchner were nominated. Messrs. Boyer and Kirchner declined in favor of Mr. P. J. McGuire. He was consequently unanimously chosen as Secretary. Mr. McGuire then tendered his resignation as Secretary,

pleading his inability to attend to the duties of the position, as his present official duties as General Secretary of the Carpenters were more than enough to keep him busy. The resignation was unanimously rejected.

For Treasurer: James Casserly and G. Edmonston were nominated. A ballot being taken, Edmonston received 19 votes, Casserly 16. G. Edmonston was then declared elected as Treasurer.

On motion the thanks of the Convention were tendered to the officers of the Convention for the faithful performance of their duties.

RESOLVED, That the newly-elected officers of the Federation be instructed to provide for the publication of the Proceedings of the two Conventions. Carried.

RESOLVED, That the newly-elected officers take charge of the organization immediately after adjournment until the next Convention. Carried.

On motion the First Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor adjourned *sine die*. The Second Annual Convention is to be held in Baltimore, Md., December 13, 1887.

